



Friday 27 October 2023

Committee Secretary,
Senate Standing Committee on Economics
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Via: Online Submission.

Consulting Surveyors National welcomes the opportunity to provide our input into the **Treasury Laws Amendment (Support for Small Business and Charities and Other Measures) Bill 2023**.

Consulting Surveyors National (CSN) is the peak industry body representing more than 500 surveying firms, employing thousands of professionals throughout Australia. 70% of our members operate small businesses.

There is a surveyor in every major centre and town and most have been operating for many years, helping develop the critical cadastre for land management. In fact, no building project can start until the land has been surveyed.

You will find a surveyor ensuring the precision of the rail lines, bridges and road networks. Surveyors are land development specialists with far-reaching expertise - engaged in agriculture, planning, housing, infrastructure and water management.

We are a member of the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. We support their recommendations and provide this submission on behalf of our industry specifically.

Recommendation – regarding Schedule 1 and the Date of Effect.

Consulting Surveyors National strongly urges the Federal Government to extend the period indefinitely or at least until 30 June 2028 and raise the increase the instant asset write-off threshold to \$30,000.

Consulting Surveyors National supports the extension of the instant asset write-off at an elevated threshold for an additional 12 months. Ideally this would be extended indefinitely or at least until 30 June 2028 to allow business to better plan their infrastructure upgrades.

We note that without this increase to the amount, assets exceeding a value of \$1,000 would be subjected to extended depreciation schedules in accordance with standard practice.

An amendment to increase the amount from \$20 000 and to extend the duration would offer significant support to small businesses, encouraging and supporting them as they invest in more substantial assets and address the issues with rapid technological change.

Our sector is preparing for the impact of upcoming technology changes and associated challenges which will require our members to make unavoidable and significant capital investment in the near future.



Telstra, Optus, and Vodafone are shortly switching off their 3G networks. Vodafone is poised to be the initial telecommunications provider to completely deactivate its 3G network, scheduled for December 15 this year. Telstra is set to follow suit in June 2024, with Optus completing the phase-out process in September 2024.

As surveying needs to be precise, Surveyors utilise a theodolite that comes with a handpiece (or controller), driven by software that requires internet connectivity to operate, but unfortunately, they are currently only 3G compatible. Some newer devices will be able to be "hot spotted" to access 4G and 5G services which may get them through until a more up to date product is available for purchase. Upgrading will have significant cost ramifications.

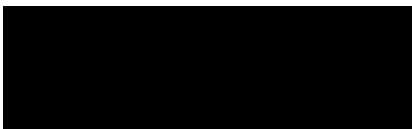
Our members have identified an immediate up-front cost of between \$10,000 to \$15,000 per controller but each business is likely to exceed this estimate, once all components are taken into account. As our industry waits for new technology to be available in Australia, these costs will need to be absorbed by our members (the majority of whom are small businesses) for several years as replacement and upgrades are required to keep up with these technology changes.

In real terms, this has meant that our sector will be forced to reinvest due to the business decisions of telecommunications companies outside of their routine investment in upgrading their devices.

This amendment would be particularly helpful for our industry as we adapt to significant technological change and invest in reconfiguring or upgrading current equipment.

To arrange further participation from Consulting Surveyors or should you wish to discuss any matter relating to this submission, please contact our Head of Advocacy and Stakeholder Engagement Melanie Gibbons at [REDACTED] or on [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely,



Michelle Blicavs
Chief Executive Officer